

and *Sialia mexicana*. Several other species to which more or less particular interest attaches might perhaps be included in this list, there being a general vagueness and lack of detail in the records relating to them. Indeed it will probably be felt by the critical reader that throughout the book a little closer adherence to dry detail and a greater array of facts and positive statements might have been introduced without detracting from its literary merit, and would have much enhanced the value of the work to students of ornithology.

To be more exact, *Ammodramus caudacutus* should have been *A. c. nelsoni*, *Seiurus noveboracensis*, *S. n. notabilis* and *Quiscalus quiscula*, *Q. q. œneus*. There are several similar distinctions of more recent date and perhaps less importance that might have been made.

The following Minnesota birds find no place in the 'Notes': *Larus franklini*, *Tringa fuscicollis*, *Tringa alpina pacifica*, *Spotyto cunicularia hypogæa*, *Chordeiles virginianus henryi*, *Tyrannus verticalis*, *Lencosticte tephrocotis*, *Acauthis linaria rostrata*, *Rhynchophanes mccownii*, *Ammodramus henslowii*, *Zonotrichia intermedia* and *Sciurus motacilla*. Some of these are common and well known species with which Dr. Hatch is well acquainted and their omission is due without doubt to some neglect or oversight. Several are only stragglers, but have been conspicuously reported, the identification resting upon the capture and preservation of specimens, which it is needless to say is the only entirely satisfactory foundation for the recording of new or exceptional facts. The volume is without tables, general summaries or any description of the topography of the State. There is no discussion of the faunal areas represented within the limits of Minnesota, nor is there any reference whatever to the interesting features presented by the State as a zoögeographical area and so well exemplified in its bird life. This is the more to be regretted since the author from his long residence in the State should be exceptionally well fitted to treat this phase of the subject in an intelligent and interesting manner. The classification and nomenclature are those of the A. O. U. Check-list. Following each biographical sketch is a statement of specific characters adapted for the most part from the descriptions given in the Ninth Volume of the Pacific Railroad Survey Reports. In order to assist the many who will use the 'Notes,' who know birds only by their common names, Professor Nachtrieb has added a carefully compiled list of common names. A very good index, also prepared by Professor Nachtrieb, completes and enriches these nearly five hundred pages of bird lore, the appearance of which has been so long and expectantly looked forward to by students of Minnesota ornithology. — T. S. R.

**Rhoads's Observations on British Columbia and Washington Birds.**<sup>1</sup>— This paper is a final report of a collecting trip, some of the results of which have been already given in 'The Auk' (Vol. X, pp. 16-24). The

<sup>1</sup> The Birds observed in British Columbia and Washington during Spring and Summer, 1892. By Samuel N. Rhoads.—Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1893, pp. 21-65.

author was in the field from March to September, passing the first three months at five places in the neighborhood of Puget Sound and the Straits of Georgia, and spending the rest of the time in the interior of British Columbia where he made short visits to nine different points widely unlike in their climatic conditions. In an introduction of a few pages each locality is briefly described, and some generalizations are given in regard to the distribution, and causes of distribution, of British Columbia birds. Some of these conclusions—though founded largely on conjecture—are stated with the positiveness of established facts, and, with other sweeping statements that appear here and there through its pages, suggest—what seems to be the principal fault in the paper—a certain lack of care and thoroughness in its preparation.

In one of the opening paragraphs Mr. Rhoads remarks that "the bibliography of Washington and British Columbia ornithology is very meagre," and his own knowledge of its literature unhappily appears to be so, to judge from the long array of species which he proceeds to add to the list of birds known to occur in each of these districts. Readers who have been more fortunate than he in their bibliographical researches will hardly be surprised to find that about half of these "additional species" have been recorded before, but they may wonder at the carelessness which enables the author to swell his British Columbia list with species mentioned by Chapman and Fannin (whose recent paper he does refer to), and even to "add" to the Washington record two birds whose type specimens undoubtedly came from that State. The latter are *Dryobates p. gairdnerii* and *Chatura vauxi*, while among other species that are wrongly given as novelties in one or the other list are *Colymbus holboëlli*, *Brachyramphus marmoratus*, *Larus californicus*, *Larus brachyrhynchus*, *Lophodytes cucullatus*, *Spatula clypeata*, *Aix sponsa*, *Aythya americana*, *Anser albifrons gambeli*, *Fulica americana*, *Totanus flavipes*, *Oreortyx pictus*, *Cathartes aura*, *Circus hudsonius*, *Falco columbarius suckleyi*, *Asio wilsonianus*, *Bubo virginianus subarcticus*, *Glaucidium gnoma*, *Cypseloides niger*, *Pica pica hudsonica*, *Agelaius phoeniceus*, *Progne subis*, *Sitta canadensis*, and *Parus atricapillus occidentalis*.

The main body of the paper is a list of the birds seen during the trip. By covering so much and such varied ground, by great activity in the field, and by inspection of the local collections that came in his way, Mr. Rhoads has been able to include a remarkably large number of species, in all (reckoning in subspecies) 260. In dividing his time between so many localities his object appears to have been to make a comparative study of the faunal peculiarities of the different parts of the territory included in British Columbia. This purpose is one whose fulfillment is greatly to be desired, but it seems doubtful whether the limited opportunities furnished by one season's work of a single observer—even as energetic and tireless an explorer as Mr. Rhoads—might not have been devoted more profitably to a more thorough investigation of the fauna of

some one of the interesting localities he visited. Nevertheless there are a great many scattered items—too many indeed for individual mention of any of them here—that are of interest and that add largely to our knowledge especially concerning details of distribution of some of the species.

In regard to the status of several subspecies the author reaffirms his opinions given in the article above referred to. In some of these cases—*Corvus caurinus*, for example—he appears to be right, but there are others where his conclusions are not so happy. Such forms, for instance, as *Melospiza lincolni striata* and *Sylvania pusilla pileolata* show characters that even one who runs at Mr. Rhoads's hasty pace may easily read, and there are other cases of subspecies entered on the list that make one wonder whether all his identifications would be sustained were the collections on which they are based to be carefully studied by some more experienced ornithologist. In fact he runs atilt at more than one long-accepted conclusion in such a light-hearted spirit that it is hard to avoid suspecting him of superficiality in his investigations, a suspicion that—in two cases at least—is by no means allayed by Mr. Brewster's recent determinations (antea, pp. 236-237) of some material from the same region.—C. F. B.

**Minor Ornithological Publications.**—'Shooting and Fishing.'—The following record (Nos. 2518-2610) includes all the ornithological articles of importance in the first thirteen volumes (May, 1885-April 20, 1893) of 'Shooting and Fishing.' This journal, which is published in Boston, was first issued under the title of 'The Rifle'; the present name was assumed in No. 5 of Vol. 4.

2518. *A Specimen of Hutchins Goose.* By Ben Bent [= Frank S. Pinckney]. 'Shooting and Fishing,' Vol. 5, No. 7, Dec. 13, 1888, p. 134.

2519. *That Last Woodcock.* By Snap Shot. *Ibid.*, Vol. 6, No. 18, Aug. 29, 1889, pp. 352-353.—At Calais, Maine, Nov. 20.

2520. *Observations on the Fall Flight of Woodcock.*—1889. By C. A. B. [ramble]. *Ibid.*, Vol. 7, No. 5, Nov. 28, 1889, p. 89.

2521. *Snipe in December.* By R. Greenwood [= A. C. Gould]. *Ibid.*, No. 9, Dec. 26, 1889, p. 174.

2522. *Habits of the Ruffed Grouse.* By Small Shot. *Ibid.*, No. 14, Jan. 30, 1890, p. 273.

2523. *Ways of the Ruffed Grouse.* By Paul Pastnor [= James Buckingham]. *Ibid.*, No. 15, Feb. 6, 1890, pp. 292-293.

2524. *The Woodcock in Nova Scotia.* By Edward Jack. *Ibid.*, No. 17, Feb. 20, 1890, pp. 332-333.

2525. *Some Notes on Woodcock.* By Paul Pastnor [= James Buckingham]. *Ibid.*, p. 333.

2526. *Notes on Woodcock.* By Saint Croix [= C. A. Bramble]. *Ibid.*, No. 21, March 20, 1890, p. 413.

2527. *The Food of Woodcock.* By William Couper. *Ibid.*, No. 23, April 3, 1890, p. 458.